

**Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
Sanctuary Advisory Council**

Final Meeting Notes¹

November 17, 2006

Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center Auditorium
Channel Islands National Park Headquarters
1901 Spinnaker Drive · Ventura Harbor, CA

Note: Audio tape recordings of this Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) meeting are available upon request; contact the SAC Coordinator at 805-884-1464.

Attending:

<u>Government Representatives:</u>	<u>Community Representatives:</u>
<u>National Park Service</u> Member Russell Galipeau	<u>Non-Consumptive Recreation</u> Member Warren Glaser Alternate Scott Dunn
<u>US Coast Guard</u> Alternate John Luzader	<u>Business</u> Member Bill Spicer
<u>Minerals Management Service</u> Member Dr. Fred Piltz	<u>Commercial Fishing</u> Member Jim Marshall
<u>CA Department of Fish and Game</u> Alternate Kristine Barsky	<u>Recreational Fishing</u> Member David Bacon
<u>Santa Barbara County</u> Member Dianne Black Alternate Michelle Gibbs	<u>Education</u> Alternate Dan Powell
<u>Department of Defense</u> Alternate Walt Schobel Member Steven Schwartz	<u>Research</u> Alternate Dan Brumbaugh
<u>NOAA Fisheries</u> Alternate Lyle Enriquez	<u>Public-At-Large</u> Member Phyllis Grifman Alternate John Rennell Member Eric Kett

Absent:

<u>Government Representatives:</u>	<u>Community Representatives:</u>
<u>US Coast Guard</u> Member Ronald Fien	<u>Commercial Fishing</u> Alternate Jim Marshall
<u>Minerals Management Service</u> Alternate Dr. Ann Bull	<u>Chumash Community</u> Member Paulette Cabugos Alternate Reggie Pagaling

¹ Adopted by the Sanctuary Advisory Council on January 19, 2007.

<u>CA Resources Agency</u>		<u>Public-At-Large</u>	
Member	Brian Baird	Member	Matt Lum
Alternate	Leah Atkins		
<u>Ventura County</u>		<u>Tourism</u>	
Member	Lyn Krieger	Member	Lauri Baker
Alternate	Jack Peveler	Alternate	Andrea Moe
<u>NOAA Fisheries</u>		<u>Conservation</u>	
Member	Mark Helvey	Member	Linda Krop
		Alternate	Greg Helms
<u>National Park Service</u>		<u>Recreational Fishing</u>	
Alternate	Gary Davis	Alternate	Merit McCrea
<u>CA Coastal Commission</u>		<u>Education</u>	
Member	Rebecca Roth	Member	Barbara LaCorte
Alternate	Jack Ainsworth		
<u>CA Department of Fish and Game</u>		<u>Research</u>	
Member	Marija Vojkovich	Member	Bob Warner

13 of the Council's 21 voting seats were present throughout the meeting. The total number of Council representatives (members and alternates) ranged from 14 at roll call, 17 at the peak, and 16 after the lunch break. Public attendance varied from 2 to 12 people.

Administrative Actions and Announcements:

The Sept. 22, 2006 draft meeting notes were unanimously approved, with one clarifying edit.

John Rennell was introduced as a new council member. He described his background, philosophy, and experiences to the council.

Council Member Announcements

Jim Marshall stated that the Santa Barbara Harbor Seafood Festival was a big success and expressed appreciation for the sanctuary's involvement. Both Chris Mobley and Mike Murray were helping out in the lobster/crab shack. If you didn't get a chance to attend this year, plan to attend in 2007 and come meet local fishermen and the seafood they harvest.

Dan Brumbaugh stated that this will be his last meeting since his second term is up and he has chosen, with mixed feelings, not to reapply. Although he won't miss the extra travel (and resulting carbon emissions) from his home in Santa Cruz, he has thoroughly enjoyed being on the Advisory Council, especially its opportunities to learn from council members' diverse expertise and points of view. He also appreciates how everyone comes together to hear, appreciate, and where possible, find consensus among these points of view. Also, as a scientist who has helped fill the research seat for 5 years now, he appreciates the value that the Council gives to science in its decision making.

David Bacon expressed concern for socioeconomic monitoring and issues, particularly that the effects of reserves on fishing and fishing-related businesses are not being evaluated.

Eric Kett provided his “window on the sanctuary”: don’t overlook winter as a great time to visit the Sanctuary. Visibility can be great, possibly 100-150 feet in December and January, and water temperatures do not decline too much. This is a time for abundant, healthy kelp and possible visits by large pelagics, not to mention the beautiful sunsets, so be sure to get out to the islands this winter.

Russell Galipeau stated that the end of the year is a good time to review 2006 Park accomplishments, such as the first eagle chicks to hatch on Santa Cruz Island in 50 years, a possible mating pair on Santa Rosa Island, and more foxes in the wild than have been seen in 50 years (300 on Santa Cruz Island). Also, the Park entered a partnership with the Ventura Office of Education to bring the underwater video program “Channel Islands Live!” into local classrooms in the fall. Santa Rosa Island is back in the news with a rider on the military construction bill in Congress now that will repeal the legislation that prevented removal of elk and deer from the island.

Warren Glaser stated that the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps finished the year with approximately 98 returning volunteers, a higher retention rate than usual. About 35 new trainees will be accepted into training beginning January 9, 2007.

Scott Dunn announced that kayak enthusiasts are interested in a water trail at the islands. The trail could include all five of the islands, with back country beach camping resources spaced along the trail. The idea is to be able to kayak from island to island or circumnavigate them with a place for kayakers to camp. Scott noted that there is interest in tying this into State Parks along the mainland as well.

Superintendent’s Report

Chris Mobley highlighted several items contained in the printed report (distributed to SAC members in advance and now available on the CINMS web site here:
<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/super.html>.)

Video presentation

Jim Knowlton, former Advisory Council Member and Associate Producer at Ocean Futures, showed stunning footage of the CINMS from the recent documentary, “America’s Underwater Treasures,” a PBS-broadcasted series about national marine sanctuaries. More information is available at <http://www.oceanfutures.org/>.

Channel Islands Marine Reserves and Conservation Areas

CINMS Draft Environmental Impact Statement – Chris Mobley gave an update on the process: Staff is cataloging and organizing comments. They will conduct additional research as necessary and will respond to each comment. Staff hopes to have a final draft in clearance in the spring 2007. In the meantime, site staff is working on implementation of the existing network, including biological and socioeconomic research and monitoring.

Biological Monitoring – Kristine Barsky, California Department of Fish and Game alternate, gave a presentation (prepared by John Ugoretz) about 2006 data collected on select commercial and recreational fisheries at the Channel Islands (ex-vessel value, landings) and summarizing monitoring activities related to the marine reserves within CINMS.

The presentation, which was given to the SAC as a draft "preview" prior to John Ugoretz going to the Fish and Game Commission meeting early next month, was open for review and feedback from the Advisory Council.

An important point made up front by Kristine was that observed changes in fisheries could not be attributed to effects of the marine reserves. In answering to Council suggestions for more data, more species, information on CPUE, etc. she also explained that for many species/fisheries there just isn't sufficient data collected to do that (e.g., no log book data on rock crab).

Council member suggestions were given to Kristine and included the following:

- The slides that show the ratio of catch at Channel Islands vs. the rest of So. CA are potentially misleading because you can't tell what "100%" represents in terms of numbers;
- CPUE and ways to show effort shifts (e.g. geographic) would be good to include, if possible Stock distribution and age structure in and outside of reserves -- these would be good to report on (if/when data is available);
- If along with the presentation a written report were also given to the Commission, that would help to explain the limitations of the data/findings and provide room for additional graphs that would otherwise exceed the available presentation time;
- Suggested adding kelp bass to the reported recreational catch information.

Socioeconomic Monitoring – Chris LaFranchi gave an update on the status of the CINMS Social Science Program. He described and discussed with the Council a variety of implemented and planned monitoring programs, including non-consumptive use studies for CINMS, boater surveys at anchorages within CINMS, and various uses of recreational fishing data/surveys.

Chris also talked about uncertainty in future funding for this type of work, and mentioned that there is some consideration being given to the social science Coordinator position being set up as a regional contract to serve all five west coast marine sanctuaries. Chris mentioned plans for taking all of the various social science data being collected and constructing an environmental database that could help integrate socioeconomic and biological data.

Chris let the Council know that there may be room for some members to accompany his team on trips next year to participate in the boater surveys at CINMS anchorages. He will be in touch about that later.

Sanctuary planning process update: Revised Management Plan

Mike Murray provided an update on the Management Plan process, noting that 80 sets of comments were received and that through the process of analyzing each one there may end up being as many as 500 individual comments to respond to in the Final Management Plan/Final EIS.

Mike also explained that due to missing information about graywater discharge from large vessels (300+ GRT) in the DMP/DEIS, and due to the possibility of inconsistency between the CINMS preferred alternative discharge regulation and the state's new Clean Coast Act, a Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement would be issued by the NMSP this winter. These documents would be open for public comment, would come to the SAC for review and comment, and would be streamlined (not a reprint of the DMP/DEIS).

2007 Sanctuary Advisory Council Chairs Annual Meeting

The Council reviewed the agenda for the 2007 meeting and began an initial discussion on topics they hoped to see discussed at the meeting.

Ideas mentioned included the theme of intergovernmental governance, which was suggested could include discussions/case studies about regional coordination, PFMC/SAC interactions, overlap/duplicity where MPAs are concerned, and NOAA's Ecosystem-Based Management Goal Team. Also suggested for the "Communication Tools" portion of the draft agenda was discussion about how other Advisory Councils have generated public interest in the SAC.

2006 Sanctuary Advisory Council Year-in-review

Mike Murray reviewed issues the council addressed in 2006, including commenting on both the Draft Management Plan and the Marine Reserves DEIS, sending a letter to Vice Admiral Lautenbacher requesting funding for marine reserves monitoring, taking up the issue of range markers for MPA boundaries, and a variety of other educational sessions.

Mike described activities of each of the Council's active Working Groups, and thanked the Chairs for their leadership and extra effort.

Mike noted that there was a fair amount of turnover on the Council in 2006, and that attendance averaged 75% of voting seats.

2007 Sanctuary Advisory Council Work Plan

A table of possible issues for the Council to address in 2007 was provided; members were to prioritize the issues and return the sheet to Mike. Thirteen were handed in.

The council discussed additional topics that they would like to possibly consider for 2007, with suggestions including: regular updates from the National Marine Fisheries Service and California Department of Fish and Game with regard to upcoming fisheries actions that the SAC might comment on; the importance of LNG proposals; rigs to reefs and artificial reefs. The Council also discussed the idea of developing a voice on issues of global environmental concern.

Public Comment

Carla Gunther, PhD student in Dr. Hunter Lenihan's lab at UCSB, is using landings data to understand lobster populations, and interviewing fishers about economic impacts and costs.

Gregg Garrison, who applied for a Council seat, introduced himself and stated he would be available to talk with members at the lunch break.

Jessie Altstatt presented a letter to the council and described her work on eelgrass at the islands. She has worked on an eelgrass restoration project but has seen the plants get ripped out at anchorages. She is creating an educational brochure to inform people of the eelgrass bed locations. The letter describes her efforts and the need for better education on this topic.

Al Sanders, Chair of the Ventura County Fish and Game Commission, stated that their group is very concerned about low levels of enforcement of state fishing regulations and would be interested in hearing suggestions from the Advisory Council and CINMS.

Shiva Polefka of the Environmental Defense Center reminded the Council that there are now six active LNG terminal proposals in California, and that the SAC's Conservation Working Group is very concerned about this as an issue important to the Sanctuary.

Future SAC meeting schedule:

- Friday, January 19, 2007, Santa Barbara
- Friday, March 16, 2007, Ventura
- Friday, May 18, 2007, Santa Barbara
- Friday, July 20, 2007, Ventura
- Friday, September 21, 2007, Santa Barbara
- Friday, November 16, 2007, Ventura

Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary staff:

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